



Rod R. Blagojevich, *Governor*

Carol L. Adams, Ph.D., *Secretary*

535 W. Jefferson • Springfield, Illinois 62702

December 05, 2003

Patricia Daniels, Director  
Supplemental Food Programs Division  
Food and Nutrition Service, USDA  
3101 Park Center Drive, Room 520  
Alexandria, Virginia 22302

Dear Ms. Daniels,

We are responding to your request for comments on Public Notice 7 CFR Part 246, Revisions to the WIC Food Packages. The Illinois WIC Program supports the recommendations of the National WIC Association as described in the "NAWD WIC Food Prescription Recommendations" and the "Culturally Sensitive Food Prescription Recommendations." We find the proposal to add whole fruits and vegetables and soy milk especially important. Whole fruits and vegetables as fresh, frozen or canned would add strong support to existing nutrition education messages, and soy milk is one of the most often requested items by our participants.

Overall these recommendations will better meet the needs of WIC participants in Illinois and should be manageable for both local providers and vendors. In regard to lower fat milks being offered as the standard for all women and children over 2 years of age we would recommend some flexibility be maintained.

The WIC population in Illinois continues to grow and change along with the rest of the Nation. It is time to reevaluate WIC Program Services and ensure the supplemental foods we offer our participants "strike a balance" by being acceptable, nutrient dense, readily available, low in cost, and administratively feasible. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these proposed revisions.

Sincerely,

Penny Roth, M.S., R.D., L.D., Acting Chief  
Bureau of Family Nutrition

cc: Stephen E. Saunders, M.D.  
Shree Mohanty

**received**  
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